

100

RIVER STEAMERS.

HONGKONG, MACAO AND CANTON.

British	90	110	H. & W. Dock
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Vessel	Flag	Captain	Tons	Horse-power	Owners or Agents
Fame	British	Mason	90	110.	H. & W. Dock Company
Fire-see	"	"	955		Hoongkong C. and M. Shipping Company
Ful-dart	"	"	420		Do.
King Chin	"	Haskell	554		Do.
Min. Kiang	Amer.	Taylor	1065		Ru-sell and Co
London	"	Phelpham	59		Acheong
Mr. J. Jacobsby	"	Duncan	150		Acheong
Sprack	Amer.	Falls	140		Thomas Hunt & Co
Plymouth, Rock	"	Newton	2380		Russell and Co
Fire-see Albert	British	"	180		Acheong
White Cloud	"	Carroll	380		Hoangkong C. and M. Company

CANTON.

CANTON.		SHANGHAE.	
	Tea lbs.	Silk lbs.	
JUN.			
Chalgrove,	289,600		
Pakwan,	1,109,400		
Behar,		2,883	
Imperatrice,		4,096	
Ottawa,		3,301	
JULY.			
Raugon,		4,715	
Tigre,		5,768	
Nordest,	1,087,000		
Valdivin,	440,700		
Carnatic,		4,238	
AUGUST.			
Scawfell,	869,300		
Mary Nicholson,	892,700		
Constance,	290,900		
Emeu,		4,280	
Donnai,		2,477	
Behar,		3,021	
SEPTEMBER.			
Scawfell (from Hongkong),	85,900		
Herald,	657,000		
Veronica,	419,200		
Orissa,		2,643	
Alphee,	1,389		
Ganges,		1,206	
OCTOBER.			
Baroda,		3,210	
Cambridge,		735	
Yaratilda,	607,100		
Tamercina,	589,200		
Yaratilda (from Macao),	419,300		
Tamercina,	826,500		
NOVEMBER.			
Emeu,		1,594	
Squaler,	525,400		
André Archbell,	857,900		
Santon,	693,800		
Strirlingshire,	647,000		
Benares,		1,807	
Imperatrice,		1,569	
DECEMBER.			
Salsette,	1,206		
Singapore,	1,109		
Tigre,	980		
JANUARY.			
Ottawa,		1,268	
James Russell,	975,200		
Jeddo,		1,415	
Donnai,		697	
Mountain Ash,	579,000		
February.			
Emeu,		746	
Victoria,	267,800		
Queen of the Age,	931,000		
Victoria (from Macao),	104,300		
Benares,		1,111	
Alphee,		867	
	13,475,700	57,305	

FUHCHAU

FUHCHAU.			
JUNE.			
Fiery Cross,	950,400	Rajah of Cochin,	429,8000
Serica,	1,031,800	Pestcheler,	1,245,700
Yangtze,	939,800	Peter Denny,	895,100
Zibo,	649,600	February,	
		James Shepherd,	47,985,200
			1,187

MACAO

SHIP'S NAME	CAPTAIN	FLAG	TONS	DATE OF ARRIVAL	ORIGIN/PORT OF ORIGIN	DESTINATION	TYPE OF CARGO
Atlagraciá	Landa	sp. bk.	341	Dec. 13	San Troncoso and Co		
Amalia	Jollo	sp. bk.	247	Dec. 16	S. M. de los Remedios		
Argonaut	Grayson	U. S. bk.	287	Feb. 10	Raynal and Co		
R. Bahana No. 1	Omaga	sp. bk.	440	Jan. 6	ruer		
Itengali	Demianux	Pr. bk.	432	Jan. 21	Landscheidt and Co	Hayana	
Burdicus & Ha. n.	Cerdina	sp. bk.	440	Jan. 26	de la Silva		
Columb	Neseth	Pr. sh.	99	Jan. 26	M. del Rio		
Concordia	stephane	lt. sh.	705	Dec. 19	Jardine, Matheson & Co	Singapore	Penn
Cristina	Grill	po. bk.	526	Nov. 18	Aug. Heard and Co		
David	O'Ryan	Pr. bk.	526	Nov. 18	Aug. Heard and Co		
D. Maria Ete	W. Garleton	Pr. sh.	727	Apr. 17	Order		
Dolores Ugarte	santos	P. sh.	774	Apr. 17	de Castro and Co		
Edwards	Oliano	P. sh.	1200	Dec. 14	S. F. de C. and Co	London	
Emma	W. Hansen	Pr. bk.	375	Jan. 1	Wm. J. Hustan and Co		
Encarnacion	Wich	ch. bk.	301	Jan. 23	Order		
Independence	Dele Ward	sp. bk.	433	Dec. 31	F. de C. and Co		
Julian	Delmenau	Pr. bk.	358	Jan. 26	de Decourt		
Julia Canavaro	Soltara	sp. bk.	526	Feb. 13	de la Graca		
Mouise de Nantes	darrena	Pr. sh.	834	Jan. 22	Order		
Napoleon Canavaro	A. V. V.	lt. sh.	1533	Jan. 22	Canavaro and Co		
S. V. Perreira	Ovasso	lt. sh.	368	Dec. 30	Order		
Tek Li	Fuges	lt. sh.	1218	Dec. 17	J. R. F. Canavaro		
Tremela	Demore	lt. sh.	113	Feb. 2	ibibb, Livingston and Co		
Ungowah	Damei-n	Rier	113	Feb. 2	ibibb, Livingston and Co		
	Rier	Himbk	320	Feb. 18	Raynal		
	Ladnor	po. bk.	371	Aug. 21	St. Marquer		
	Lucas	sp. bk.	360	Feb. 18	Raynal and Co		
	Ordano	lt. sh.	898	Feb. 18	Raynal and Co		

WHAMPOA.

SHIP'S NAME	CAPTAIN	FLAG & RIG	TON.	DATE OF ARRIVAL	CORRESPONDING AGENT	DESTINATION	REMARKS
Aurelia	Hewes	am. bk	435		Russell and Co	For gascon	
Asia	Finney	lt. sh.	819		Order	Havana	doc.
Barnes	Gillet	Probk.	1254			Havana	doc.
Corrieuzelle	White	B. sh.	506	Jan. 20	Landstein and Co	Repairing	
Dania	Daton	Fr. bk.	666	Sept. 28	Landstein and Co	Havana	
De Wiest	Pust	Pr. sh.	541		Siennessen and Co		
Edward Ho	Byrne	B. sh.	607		Russell and Co	N. York	
F. Leon	Sullivan	Pr. bk	352		D. Laprak and Co	N. York	
Flore	Lafontaine	Fr. bk.	396		Landstein and Co	Havana	
Florida	Petersen	am. bk.	406		Siennessen and Co	N. York	
Macassar	Johnston	S. bk.	635	Feb. 25	Oxford and Co	Last up	
Nile	Gardols	Sp. bk.	303	Feb. 14	Reynolds and Co	Hongkong	
Negro Lepanto		B. str.	423	Oct. 16	P. and U. S. N. Co.		
Pekin	Nankivell	B. bk.	641	Jan. 20	James Kennedy and Co	Demerara	
P. of the Ganges	Wag	B. str.	123	Feb. 1	Phillips Moore and Co	Last up	
South Western	Wag	am. bk.	252		Order		
Talca	Walf	B. bk.	183	Sept. 18	Adam Scott and Co	For Sale	
Tenthaim	Wunderlin	B. str.	195				

RECEIVING SHIPS

Vessel	At	Flag & Reg.	Tons.	Captain	Owners
Fort William	Hongkong	B. sh.	1000	Alphason	P. & O. S. N. Steam Co
John Adlam	"	B. bk.	318	Buncombe	D. Sassoon Sons and Co
Tremelga	Macao	P. bk.	940	Marques	L. Marques Callos E
Mahanoodie	Fuh-chau	B. bk.	339	Oliver	Jardine, Matheson & Co
And Watch	Ningpo	B. bk.	341	Green	Jardine, Matheson & Co
Snipe	Shanghai	B. bk.	341	Roundy	Augustine Hoard and Co
Snake	"	B. sh.	592	Koppell	P. Framos Camas and Co
Water Witch	"	B. bk.	627	Lewis	Captain Lewis
Lady Hayes	"	B. hg.	384	Patridge	Jardine, Matheson & Co
Wellington	"	B. bk.	474	Barnett	David Sassoon, Sons & Co
Redinder	"	B. sh.	352		Jardine, Matheson & Co
Karnie	Ta-ku, Formosa	B. bk.			Dant and Co

BUNCHAU

SHIP'S NAME	CAPTAIN	CLASS	TONS	DATE OF ARRIVAL	CONSIGNEE OR AGENT	DESTINATION	LAST DAY
Angle Sarfou	Plummer	S. M.	628	Jan. 21	A. W. Heard and Co		
Brant	Johnson	A. M.	300	Dec. 19	Order		
Catalpa	King	A. M.	350	Jan. 26	A. W. Heard and Co		
Cargano	Overbeck	S. M.	160	Dec. 26	Order		
Cormandel	Smith	A. M.	606	Jan. 13	Rusden Phipps and Co		
Charles	Brechin	A. M.	180	Jan. 9	Order		
Emma	Hendrix	S. M.	282	Dec. 3	Order		
Eunice Nicolao	Barry	S. M.	1029	Jan. 13	Order		
Lizzie	Dunn	S. M.	363	Jan. 20	A. W. Heard and Co		
Memento	Lorall	S. M.	424	Sept. 26	Smith, Kennedy and Co		
Sir I. Newton	De Freye	S. M.	400	Sept. 1	Order		
Willy	Bakker	S. M.	250	Jan. 18	Rusden Phipps and Co		

Shipping in China Waters.

AMOV

SHIP'S NAME	CAPTAIN	FLAG & Rtg	TONS	DATE OF ARRIVAL	CO-SHIPPERS OR AGENTS	DESTINATION	TURN OVER DATE
Britain's Pride	Hudson	A. S.	150	Feb. 20	Boyer and Co		
Cuba	Hemann	A.M.B.	300	Feb. 2	Kielmann and Alish		
Felma	Machado	A.M.S.	100	Feb. 17	Tait and Co		
Johanne	Glosser	O.A.	112	Feb. 20	Order		
Marie Rosmarie	Aloesenga	P.	254	Feb. 17	Boyer and Co		
Marie and Helene	St. Regen	A.M.B.	240	Feb. 16	Kielmann and Alish		
Mathilde	Nissen	A.M.B.	260	Feb. 14	Paesdag and Co		
Meta	Michelson	P. R.	120	Feb. 18	Paesdag and Co		
Pfeil		B. R.	149	Feb. 3	Paesdag and Co		
Sunmyra		A. B.	384	Feb. 24	Order		
Victoria	Delange	A.M.B.	450	Feb. 8	Order		
Wilby	Hutchinson	P. R.	270	Feb. 5	Paesdag and Co		
Zweder	Rohkes	A. B.	169	Feb. 14	Paesdag and Co		
	Suss	P. R.	169				

SHANGHAI.

SHIP'S NAME	CAPTAIN	FLAG & TONS	DATE OF ARRIVAL	CORRESPONDING AGENTS	(ESTIMATION)	(IMPORT DUTY)
Amoy Fraser	Walbran	P.r. bk.	Dec. 28	Vm. Pustau and Co.	Amoy	Early
Ann Adamson	Hutton	S. bk.	Feb. 20	Frazer and Co.		
Antipodes	Woodroff	S. bk.	592 Feb.	Sway, Brother and Co.	F. or Charter	
Atlantic	Bruce	Ru. bk.	183 Feb.	Robinson and Co.	Newchwang	[Imm]
Chak Tel Nag	Fox	A. ar.	170 Jan. 25	A. R. Tilby and Co.	Tientsin	[Imm]
Bolina	Russell	S. bk.	438 Aug.			
Calypso	Ring	amb. bk.	260 Feb.	Augustine Heard & Co.		
Castleton	Hall	D. bk.	280 Feb.	Tate and Co.	Taku	Early
Dolphin	Withers	A. bk.	308 Feb.	Dent and Co.	Nagasaki	Early
Duck	Lorenzo	S. bk.	145 July 21	F. C. Mams and Co.	Laid up	
Electricity	Benjamin	S. bk.	465 Jan. 28	A. R. Tilby and Co.	Newchwang	[Imm]
Elizabeth	McGregor	S. bk.	183 Feb.	Robinson and Co.	Newchwang	[Imm]
Elsie	Hedder	Gk. bk.	339 Jan. 10	J. Matheson and Co.	Newchwang	[Imm]
Kunice Nicholas	Barry	S. sh.	1063 Feb.	De Louw and Co.	F. or Charter	
Glamy	Waters	S. bk.	467 Jan. 21	A. R. Tilby and Co.	Newchwang	[Imm]
Florida	Mullivan	S. bk.	320 Feb. 10	A. R. Tilby and Co.		
Georgina	Gale	S. bk.	419 Jan.	Bourjau, Hugener & Co.	Cherbourg	
Geo. Caning	Edris	S. bk.	305 Jan.	Frazer and Co.	Fuichuan	
Glasgow	Smith	S. sh.	1177 Feb.	Jos. Livingston and Co.		
Ironides	Clare	S. bk.	260 Feb.	St. James and Co.		
Jane Wishart	Stuchman	S. sh.	765 Feb.	11 Gibb, Livingston and Co.	London	Early
Jennie Mitchell						
John Cobbold	stortom	S. bk.	320 Feb.	20 Rohlfon, Vale and Co.	Chetoo	Early
John Buxpan	Grant	S. sh.	320 Feb.	A. Davidson for & Agent	Swatow	Early
John Buxpan	Grant	S. sh.	320 Feb.	11 Gilman and Co.	For Auction	Early
Kafir Chief	Hoole	A. ar.	186 Oct.	10 Lane, Crawford and Co.		
Keen-ee	Holmes	S. bk.	206 Feb.	1 Capt. Fairlie		
Kirkland	Colledge	S. bk.	320 Feb.	W. K. Arnold and Co.		
Lamaitia	Spawart	S. sh.	1127 Feb.	W. R. A. Adams and Co.	Fuku	Early
Lizian Allen	Dunn	S. bk.	320 Feb.	18 Augustine Heard and Co.	Newchwang	Early
Lizian Baggie	Dixon	amb. bk.	470 Feb.	11 Smith, Kennedy and Co.	Liverpool	Early
Lizian Baggie	Dixon	amb. bk.	470 Feb.	11 Smith, Kennedy and Co.	Liverpool	Early
Maiden Queen	Smith	S. bk.	515 Jan.	28 Smith, Kennedy and Co.		
Medea	Le Fevre	S. bk.	397 Feb.	27 Oriental Bank		
Melroyan	Siackburu	S. bk.	593 Feb.	18 Siemens and Co.	Newchwang	Early
Melroyan	Siackburu	S. bk.	593 Feb.	18 Siemens and Co.	Newchwang	Early
Naoe	Jordan	amb. bk.	195 Feb.	20 Frazer and Co.		
Nelly Abbott	Oughton	S. sh.	1922 July	18 Jardine Matheson & Co.		
Ocean Vidal	Beitz	amb. bk.	1935 Feb.	28 Siemens and Co.	Tientsin	
Orford	Fulton	S. bk.	1924 Feb.	14 John Turner & Co.		
Pauloff	Lewis	S. ar.	367 May	31 Frazer and Co.		
Princess Paul Felt	Heard	S. bk.	447 Feb.	25 Frazer and Co.		
Regolite	Fort	S. bk.	490 Feb.	18 Gilmann and Co.	New York	Imm
Rosemary Home	Trylles	S. bk.	390 Feb.	11 Borthes company	F. or Charter	
Sarah Scott	Riches	S. bk.	385 Jan. 12	A. R. Tilby and Co.	Swatow	Early
Sawful	tender	S. bk.	469 Jan.	7 Preston, Brenell and Co.	Liverpool	Early
Sey Witoah	Hughes	S. bk.	373 Feb.	34 Sassaon sons and Co.	Swatow	Early
Sey Witoah	Hughes	S. bk.	373 Feb.	34 Sassaon sons and Co.	Swatow	Early
Sey Witoah	Cater	S. sh.	1917 Feb.	9 Jardine, Matheson & Co.	(Died)	

THE DRAINAGE. HONGKONG is so frequently an unhealthy residence, that I suspect its inhabitants to be more indebted to the existence of any drainage than to the existence of any sanitary condition of the place; however proved, this disposition which is shared by an eastern life, which are of the most un-natural interest; and our remarks is to be found at the present moment, odour, the reverse of a blow from Arab to the mouth of various the Colony of Victoria. At the present season, harm done by miasma has not great, the chief injury inflicted on that the Nose Bat in a hot weather it becomes attention to an evil come insupportable, a sent arrangements as sewers threatens to a serious degree. Water adequate to the disease soon be abated, the drainage tolerably effective in view to meet the evil. The evil seems then a defective water supply of the precious fluid or for utilizing it, for important sanitary purposes usually applied.

That we are not
sible evils which may
of due precautions in
print from the *Columbo*
January the following
letter recently address
that paper by the *Colo*
&c. at the settlement
COLOMBO, 18
DEAR SIR,—The ad
ter from "The Yeoma
climatiser," of the 7
the subject of Draina
applicable to the pres
of Colombo, in near
that I believe it well
tion in your columns
when Colombo is on
Municipality.

(Editorial remarks in the Australian.)

"The ample supply of cesspools in the city, with underground drainage distributing part of all the refuse, and the basement of the city. If the party and the basement of simultaneously lifted, would reveal a nest enough to make the household stand or eat, drinks, moves of of quietest guests, a quiver of nausea, head-ache, but are always ready, siciently hot, to give blow in the shape of a

"That outbreaks of gastric fever, are essentially due to defective drainage, is generally acknowledged, fever poison is generally, or merely in quite so, certain; but exists at the intensity of outbreaks, or variations from sewage or stances. If any down, fortunately the sanitary bourne during the suffices to dispel it.

(Dr. Rawson's Letter.)
 "Superficial, open, and unproductive of mischief, made without proper ventilation, and thorough contents. Here, at danger is not out of the less likely to be out of gases formed by slow burning off at slow pressure atmospheric air, in the being blown away by be rendered comparatively when putrefactive fermentation in obstructive sewers acquires a high pressure under certain adventitious

PRICE OF THE *CHINA MAIL*, Weekly,—Per Annum, *Fifteen Spanish Dollars*; Six Months, *Nine Dollars*; Three Months, *Five Dollars*:—all payable in advance. Subscriptions will be considered as renewed, unless notice to the contrary be given a month before the expiry of the

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Amoy, GILES & Co. Fuhchau, A. D. DOBIE. Shanghai, H. FOGG & Co. Manila, C. KARUTH
& Co.

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... ..

somewhat more importance in the eyes of people at home than heretofore. Several other interesting details of the working of this branch of the public service are given in Mr. Mitchell's report, and he notices in strong terms the annoyance, inconvenience, and loss to the revenue caused by the practice now in vogue of illegally sending letters by private hand instead of posting them in due form. We do not see that this proceeding is likely to be done away with so long as the law is powerless to enforce penalties; and we may add that we aim to doubt the wisdom of too severely enforcing the regulations in existence; as the law will most surely be avoided so long as the present somewhat high rates of postage are kept up, and the trouble and expense of prosecution, while useless to check the practice, will only be an additional tax on the revenue of the establishment, and on the time and energy of an already sufficiently hard worked branch of the public service.

While speaking on the subject of the rates now charged by the Post-office for the transmission of letters we would draw our readers' attention to the fact of the Postal income being considerably in excess of the actual expenditure of the department.

The balance is at present absorbed into the Colonial Treasury and its usual destination is to pay for roads and bridges which are annually washed away, or for the support in fat and laziness of the overfed Chan gang worthies who are so conspicuously underworked in our public streets. It is a pity that it has not yet struck the minds of the authorities that the surplus might very usefully be directed to increasing the staff of the Post Office which would have the effect of accelerating the delivery of letters by the inward mails and diminish the time before departure for closing the outward mails.

For the information of such of our readers as may not be in the habit of reading the Government Gazette we reprint the Postmaster General's report hereunder.

POSTMASTER GENERAL'S ANNUAL REPORTS.

His Excellency the Acting Governor directs the publication of the submitted Annual Report, of the Hongkong General Post Office for the Year 1865.

GENERAL POST OFFICE, HONGKONG, 22d February, 1866.

SIR.—In transmitting for the information of His Excellency the Acting Governor this my Sixth Annual Report of the Revenue and Expenditure and general working of this department being that for the year 1865, I have the honor to point out, that, although the figures show that the revenue which the Colonial Government received in the year 1865 is somewhat less than it was in the year 1864, yet this apparent diminution is to a great extent accounted for by the altered system of Accounts which was brought into operation on the 1st March last, under which the profits on the Remittances made to London have not been credited to the Post Office, as was the case in former years, and as these from March to December, 1864, amounted to \$10,638.05, it is proper, for the sake of comparison, to add this sum to the Revenue actually received;—in the year just closed the profit on exchange in the Remittances of Revenue from Shanghai, was \$624.68 less than it was in 1864.

The revenue collected at the Packet Agency Shanghai on loose letters (i.e. letters carried outside the Mail), in the year 1864 amounted to \$3,498.18, whilst that received in the year 1865 was \$1,672.91 only; this reduction of revenue is consequent upon only this reduction of revenue is consequent upon the arrangement which places there for the masters of Vessels arriving at Shanghai to deliver all their loose letters at the Local Post Office; these formerly were taken to the British Packet Agency, and it is proper to remark that the Steamers of the Peninsular and Oriental Company are not excepted to this rule, although the Messageries Impériales Packets deliver the correspondence conveyed by them, to the French Post Office at Shanghai.

To find the Colony's share of Revenue for the past year, the change in the mode of keeping the Accounts has made it necessary to deduct from the total revenue received, the amount admitted to the General Post Office in London, and for the same cause it became necessary that the debts amounting to \$6,839.98 due to that Office by the Packet Agents at the Ports in China and Japan should be taken over by the Colony, and it is therefore also necessary in computing the Colonial Revenue of 1865 with that of 1864, to add that sum to last year's revenue.

The difference between the amounts outstanding due to the Colony at the end of each of these years would be a very proper item to add to or deduct from, as the case might require, the last year's revenue; but in the year 1864 this was put down indicative of the unpaid postage stamps on hand at the Packet Agencies, and in 1865 the same due at these Agencies is properly estimated without the stamps on hand, the difference under this head cannot, with any proper degree of certainty, be computed.

The comparative account then stands thus:

Total amount of Revenue (Imperial and Colonial) collected during the year 1865.....	\$192,143.05
Imperial portion of the same (227,267.18.51).....	120,886.03
Leaving Colonial portion.....	61,257.02

As against \$86,341.11 revenue of 1864, the difference being made up principally by Profit on remittances made to London in 1864, the corresponding item not being included in

Post Office revenue for 1865.....	10,658.05
Excess of Profits on Remittances from Shanghai in 1864 over those of 1865.....	624.68
Amount due to London Office on the 1st March, 1865, paid by the Colony under the changed plan of keeping accounts.....	6,839.98
	\$9,374.74

which shows a decrease of \$6,966.37 in the ordinary Colonial Revenue of 1865, as compared with that of 1864.

This decrease may be accounted for in numerous ways, such as the increase of the French Post Office has made upon the Revenue by the extension of the French line of Packets from Shanghai to Yokohama; the extended operations of the Shanghai Local Post Office; and the depressed state of Commerce in China and Japan.

The Imperial Postal Revenue collected in 1865 is £1200,752 in excess of the Imperial Revenue of 1864.

I have already pointed out the Imperial portion of Revenue collected here last year has been £27,267.18.51, the Imperial share of Revenue collected in London on outward mails must of course be greater; although I have not the means of ascertaining it exactly, assuming it however to be but little in excess, it still shows that the Hongkong Post Office contributes a sum of not less than say £50,000 per annum in aid of the Postal subsidy.

The altered system of keeping the Accounts of the Department above referred to has been found so far to work well.

The expenditure for the year 1865, so far as the same has formed a charge upon the Colonial Government, amounts to £23,413.59 or \$902,541 in excess of that of the previous year; which is partially accounted for by an addition to the Staff of one order who was appointed on the 10th February, 1865, at \$720 per annum; this sum does not however include the cost of the new building, or the subsidy for the English Mail Contract, which disbursements are not made through the Department.

The Staff of the establishment now consists of—

- 1 Postmaster General.
 - 1 Assistant do.,
 - 1 Clerk,
 - 1 Change Taker, and
 - 5 Sorters,
 - 1 Comptroller,
 - 1 Head carrier,
 - 9 Ordinary Coolies, and
 - 5 Boatmen.
- and there are 8 Agencies under its control, viz.: at Canton, Swatow, Amoy, Fouchow, Ningpo, Shanghai, Nagasaki, and Yedo;

In the case of Shanghai, the Colonial Government contributes a portion of the Packet Agent's Salary, the rest being paid by the Imperial Post Office, which Department also pays the salaries of each of the other Packet Agents; all other expenditure at the Ports being borne by the Colony—the Hongkong Post Office also keeps an account with the Post Office at Macao, and the same instructions are issued to the Office of Macao as are given to the British Packet Agents, but the salary of the Postmaster at Macao is not defrayed by this Department for the reasons therein—with the exception of Shanghai, the Packet Agents are all Officers in the British Consular Service.

Mails are also sent to the Legation at Peking, and to the British Consulate here and at the various ports with the exceptions indicated, there are no regularly appointed or paid Packet Agents.

The new building was opened to the Public on the 12th September last, and it has been found in all respects sufficient to meet the increased requirements of the Colony.

On the 25th September last I issued a new code of regulations for the guidance of the Officers of the Department, and these were published in pamphlet form.

I am unable to report that any improvement has taken place on the subject which was touched upon in my previous report as to the illicit conveyance of correspondence by the British Contract Packets between Hongkong and Shanghai; on the contrary, my letter of the 28th July last, No. 48, will have indicated you of the continuance in the practice, and also of a defect in the Colonial Law which places the Company subsidised by the Crown without the compass of the Law which effects the Masters of Vessels not under Contract to carry Mails.

The loss to the Public, and the inconvenience caused to the Department by the continuation of this system, can hardly be overestimated, and notwithstanding every endeavour has been made by the Officers of the Post Office, to counteract it, it has been found, in the present state of the Law, to be practically impossible to effect any improvement.

The compulsory use of Postage Stamps in the payment of postage both here and at the various Ports is found to be an advantage, the Stamps now in use however, although of 10 separate values, are not wholly suitable to the present rates of postage, and the introduction of four additional kinds, viz. a 16-cent Stamp, a 3-cent Stamp, a 5-cent Stamp, and a 40-cent Stamp would be received by the Public as a convenience.

Towards the close of the past year the time for posting correspondence for the Mails by the British Contract Packets was extended from 6 P.M. on the evening prior to the Packets departure until 9 A.M. on the morning of her departure, and a box for the receipt of Correspondence has been kept open during the night; this box however except for the use of persons who reach the Office just after the closing of the Windows at 6 P.M. has been almost in disuse.

\$163,982.98 has been received for Postage Stamps sold during the year 1865.

The Colony's Share of the Postage on Mails received from London during the year 1865 amounted to £1,241.19.0 or \$44,146 in excess of the Colonial Revenue from the same source in the previous year.

During the year 1865, 230,073 Letters and 135,011 Newspapers and Prices Current, were sent in the Mails by the British Packets to London, and 9,870 Letters and 5,136 Newspapers and Prices Current, were sent in the Mails by the French Packets to London; no account is taken of the number of Letters and Papers received at Hongkong in the Mails by either the English or French packets.

901 Registered Letters were received from London, and 979 Registered Letters were dispatched to London during the year 1865.

1,233 Ship Mails (i.e. Mails carried otherwise than by the subsidised Packets) were received at the Hongkong Post Office during the year 1865, and 1,011 Ship Mails were dispatched during the same period.

During the past year 1,269 Official Letters on the business of the Office were received, and 794 letters transmitted in reply; this is exclusive of numerous Official applications for information made in Memoranda and Notes.

In the month of November last an agreement was entered into between His Lordship the Postmaster

General in England and the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company under which the system of fines for overtime and premiums for time saved on the voyage which was then in operation on the line between Point de Galle and Sydney, was extended to all the services for which the Company are under contract with the Post Office. I include a Return showing the number of days allowed for the conveyance of the Mails from London to Hongkong via Southampton and via Marseilles, the time each voyage occupied, and the numbers of days lost or gained, from which it will be seen that during the year 1865, 3 mails arrived at Hongkong on their due date, 13 before their time, and 8 after they were due here, and, that in the voyages 24 days were gained and 36 lost.—I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most obedient Servant.

F. W. MITCHELL,
Postmaster General.

TAXPAYERS AND TROOPS.

In accordance with our expressed intention we proceed to make a few observations, as to how this colony will be effected by the intended reduction of the Troops stationed here. The difficulty of procuring anything like reliable information regarding military details has precluded our doing so ere this; but having taken much trouble to institute enquiries, we can vouch for the accuracy of the subjoined statements.

The point to which we will primarily advert, must necessarily be that which most concerns the tax-payers of the place, namely the annual contribution of £20,000 towards the cost of the Garrison. That this demand in the first instance was most unjust, we hope to prove below; but that its continuance hereafter would be iniquitous cannot be doubted. The fact of the Legislative Council having acceded to the demand, is only to be accounted for by the pressure brought to bear by the Colonial Office on the official Members thereof; for if what is whispered to be true, one of such holding a high Government position; who had the honesty (or as Downing Street would say the audacity) to vote against it, has received a caution to be more submissive in future.

With these preliminary remarks we will proceed to lay before our readers a few facts, as to how the Troops stationed here are employed, defraying as far as practicable the Imperial and Colonial Services. The principal duty of the Troops here, is to protect the various public buildings and stores; To do this there are near a dozen guards, only two of which, (those at Government House and the Treasury) can be said to be for the benefit of the Colony. The remainder, with one or two exceptions are for purely Imperial purposes; such as the 3 or 4 mounted over the Magazines and at the Naval yards.

The above constituting the main duties of the Troops, it will be perceived that the only advantage Hongkong derives in exchange for its £20,000 per annum is, (irrespective of the moral effect produced on the Chinese by their presence) that of two guards of a few men each. But as there are Military Establishments here in addition to soldiers, we must next take into consideration, the object for which they are maintained, which we do not hesitate to say are entirely Imperial. There is firstly the Major General and his Staff. This cannot by any process of argument be considered chargeable to our taxpayers, for he is commanding the Troops in China and Japan and were none of H.M. Forces anywhere in these regions but here, no officer of such rank would be sent to command such a small Garrison. There is next the Military Store Department which would have to be kept up to almost its present strength were the whole of the Troops withdrawn to-morrow; as it certainly has ten times as much work to do with the Navy as with the Army. And then there is the Commissariat, more impudently than any of the others for it is, so to speak, the Agent of the British Treasury, through whom all its monetary transactions in China and Japan are conducted, and by whom all disbursements on account of it, for Naval, Diplomatic and Consular Services are made.

We submit to our readers that we have proved most conclusively that the demand made by the Colonial Office for £20,000 a year was in the first instance most disproportionate, and therefore exorbitant, unjust, and in the manner of its enforcement arbitrary.

If such was the case when there were two Regiments here, it will become absolute dishonesty, if the claim be persevered in after the reduction of the Garrison.

There is one other point of very great moment to the Colony, which seems to have escaped the observation of everybody; and that is how will the prospects of the Mint be effected by the withdrawal of the Troops; that its success depends entirely on its security nobody will question, and that its situation affords none, is proved by the piracy which recently took place under its very walls.—Unless it is properly protected, nobody will entrust dollars or specie to its care, and to assure that object, it was originally intended to have had a Captain's guard of some 50 men over it.

This arrangement cannot under present circumstances be carried out, and we hear that the building of the Guard House has been suspended.—We should much like to know what is proposed to be done to meet the difficulty. The promised time for commencing operations is very near, and delay means loss of revenue. We do not believe that even a Hongkong Government would propose to entrust the safety of the contents of a Mint to Hindoos and Lascars, and where Europeans are to be procured we cannot opine. So that we may as well prepare ourselves for the adjournment sine die of the opening of this much vaunted establishment. In conclusion we express a hope, that as the Legislative Council will meet on Tuesday, some independent member will procure for the community more exact intelligence on the various points mooted in this article, which so deeply interest every resident here, by requesting his Excellency the Acting Governor in the first place to lay on the table a copy of the despatch received some months ago, stating that one Regiment was to be withdrawn, and then asking for information on the following subjects viz. as to whether any intimation had been received of the intention of the Colonial office to abandon or lessen its demand for a yearly contribution towards military expenses, whether any protest had been made against the reduction of the Garrison—and lastly what steps it was proposed to take to protect the Mint.

HONGKONG.

THERE are two questions which require the early attention of the Public of Hongkong; first, are we Europeans living among the Chinese, or are the Chinese supposed to be living among us. The second question indirectly arises out of the first, viz. have we a Surveyor General for the Town of Victoria in name, for we certainly do not possess one in deed?

To commence with our first query. It really is high time that something definite should be settled before the proportions of the city of Victoria become so unmanageably large, and the Chinese element preponderates to such an extent, that we shall not only find ourselves completely outnumbered, but out voted by Chinese influence and chicanery in every useful measure brought forward for the progress of this important British Colony.

Most of our readers will probably smile at the bare idea of such a question being put—“of course this is not only a strictly European Town, but it is intended to be a model in every way for future Chinese Rulers and Architects to build their cities by, instead of the hitherto cramped up and gingerbread streets or alleys of their country!” Is it so? Let us take our leading thoroughfare Queen's Road for a sample; it has doubtless been originally fairly designed and laid down, it is broad and straight enough for all purposes, but what a heterogeneous mass of buildings we see on both sides of this Oxford Street of the East—as it has been facetiously called—no wonder a stranger is very much puzzled when he gets there and when he is fondly beginning to imagine himself once more in a civilized European City, and is quite struck with the elegance and solidity of the almost palatial residences of our merchant firms, to find that a few

steps one way or the other, bring him up suddenly among the slums and stench of an unmistakable Chinese town flimsily built and friable as touchpaper!

Is there then no help for this? Are we powerless in our own Colony and on our own land to lay down the law for the Chinese, that if it suits them so well to leave their own homes to come and live among us, they must adopt our own style of buildings, and conform in every way to European ideas of cleanliness. Why permit their jeopardizing daily both public and private property around them with the filth and indurability material their houses are run up with, and driving away respectable householders with the unsavouriness and state of almost universal squalor they live in, from the highest to the lowest? However much the Colonial policy of France and Holland may be at fault, there is one lesson we may always learn from them with advantage, and that is the almost arbitrary way in which they insist upon all their foreign towns being built in conformity with the characteristic ideas of the mother country. “Le droit du plus fort” is a far more suitable motto to go upon in this place, than our “live and let live.” The Chinese who own buildings in the Queen's Road are mostly men of wealth who can easily afford to build better habitations and would do so immediately they were driven to it; nor would there be any great hardship in this rule, for it must eventually come to that ere long.

It must be said that the Praya is certainly a very great improvement to the rest of the Town of Victoria; indeed it would be almost perfect were it not for the execrable obliquity of the Naval Authorities in refusing to give up the sea frontage it claims to so pertinaciously about the Dock yard; however we understand that there is a prospect of this much vexed question being shortly settled by the present Admiral, as he is one of liberal views and not prejudiced by too long a residence in tropical climates. We shall then have an unbroken range of quays and carriage drives all the way to East Point which no doubt will be carried on ere long past the Mint.

The second question about the existence of a Surveyor General appears to us rather difficult to answer; if there is one, why in the name of Heaven doesn't he pay closer attention to the duties that necessarily devolve upon him. There is one very important item which he is supposed to have entirely under his immediate control, and that is the thorough drainage and cleanliness of the town and its thoroughfares; such a thing as superficial drainage should be unknown and yet what is our experience, if we stroll past the Murray Barracks, Spring gardens, and so on to the foot of Morrison Hill?

On each side of the road there is a continued dark looking pestiferous stream dozing out from the Chinese Houses which in itself is sufficient to breed fevers of the most malignant description; in the mornings especially the stench is so intolerable that early risers who desire to “eat” a few mouthfuls of fresh air on the Race course or elsewhere, are obliged to canter or drive past at the top of their speed, holding their noses for fear of being sickened, portable tubs waiting equally obnoxious exhalations attack our olfactory nerves on all sides, and yet there is no necessity whatsoever for all this, except that it always has been a Chinese custom from time immemorial.

There can be no excuse whatever urged against proper drains being laid down any where in the town; on account of its being entirely built on the slope of a hill they would always have sufficient fall into the sea to prevent their being choked up at any time.

Let us trust in conclusion that the infusion of new blood and rulers into the Colony will tend somewhat by their exertions and promptitude to dissipate the hitherto mistaken notions people have been forming at home about the confirmed insalubrity of the Hongkong climate.

BIRTH.
At Shanghai, on the 4th N
TANG, of son.

MARRIAGE.
At St John's Cathedral,
March, by the Rev. John
Chapman, Miss R. WARR, to
Charles.

DEATH.
Died at Nantes, (France),
Francis Garret du Cressat, Co
ment of Dragons, Knight of
the Order of St. Louis, &c.

On the 16th January last,
Edmund, aged 55, JESSIE, w
married Edinburgh.
At Shanghai, on the 5th Ma
the Chinese, ROBERT BAXTER, o
Hall, a native of Devonshire.
At Hongkong, on the 11th
daughter of C. J. Bolton, aged
days.
At Macao, on the 11th inst
wounds received from the Co
R. DEVAL, of the French Navy.
At Canton, on the 11th inst
Beloved Wife of Mr. J. W. Gles
Education, in the 40th year
On Board R.M.S. S. Magenta
Miss BAXTER, (Canton), H. Bax
At the St. James's Hospital,
MRS. HARRIS FARRER.

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